

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SAJ-01 /073 W

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R 061037Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8702

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE THE HAGUE 4252

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, NL

SUBJ: DUTCH OFFICIAL FACES TRAVEL DIFFICULTIES IN SOVIET UNION

1. IN MONTH NOTABLE FOR SCARCITY OF NEWS, CHAIRMAN OF SECOND CHAMBER OF DUTCH PARLIAMENT, DR. ANNE VONDELING, HAS GOTTEN HEADLINES AS A RESULT OF SOVIET REFUSAL TO ALLOW HIM A PRIVATE TWO-WEEK TOUR IN THE SOVIET UNION. VONDELING IS SCHEDULED TO ACCOMPANY DUTCH PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION TO SOVIET UNION AUGUST 12-21 AND HAD ASKED SOVIET AMBASSADOR ROMANOV FOR PERMISSION TO GO ON PERSONAL VISIT TO SELECTED FARM PROJECTS JUST BEFORE.

2. ACCORDING TO NEWSPAPER REPORTS, ROMANOV HAD PERSONALLY INFORMED VONDELING "WITH REGRET" THAT, SINCE REQUEST FOR THE TRIP HAD COME IN TOO LATE, NO PERMISSION FOR THE VISIT COULD BE GIVEN. ROMANOV REPORTEDLY ADDED THAT REQUEST FOR SUCH VISIT SHOULD HAVE BEEN MADE AT LEAST HALF A YEAR BEFOREHAND.

3. VONDELING IS SAID TO HAVE REPLIED THAT HE WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ORGANIZE DUTCH TRIP FOR SOVIET MP'S ON TWO-HOUR NOTICE, "BUT BUREAUCRACY APPARENTLY MAKES THIS IMPOSSIBLE IN THE SOVIET UNION."

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4. COMMENT: IT MAY BE THAT VONDELING'S SELECTION OF AREAS

TO BE VISITED (SIBERIA, KAZAKH SSR, AND UKRAINIAN SSR) MAY HAVE DISPOSED SOVIETS TO TURN VONDELING DOWN. NONE OF THE FEW POLITICAL OBSERVERS IN THE HAGUE NOT ON HOLIDAY REGARD THE STORY OR THE SOVIET REACTION TO THE REQUEST AS EXCEPTIONAL. MAIN POLITICAL INTEREST ARISES FROM THE FACT THAT EVIDENTLY VONDELING, AN OLDER MEMBER OF THE LABOR PARTY (PVDA), SEES SOME POLITICAL ADVANTAGE IN SOME SOVIET BAITING.

5. VONDELING'S THRUSTS ARE IN LINE WITH RECENT PROTEST BY EXECUTIVE OF DUTCH LABOR PARTY TO GDR SOCIALIST UNITY PARTY PROTESTING ACTION OF GDR SENTRIES IN RECENT BORDER SHOOTINGS. THAT PROTEST WAS SIGNED BY PARTY CHAIRMAN MRS. IEN VAN DEN HEUVEL. HER PROTEST AND VONDELING'S ACTION MAY HAVE BEEN DESIGNED TO COUNTERBALANCE HIGHLY UNFAVORABLE IMPACT OF STATEMENTS LAST FALL BY DUTCH LABOR PARTY DELEGATION, INCLUDING MRS. VAN DEN HEUVEL, AFTER VISIT TO GDR THAT THE BERLIN WALL "HAD BEEN HISTORICALLY CORRECT."  
(75 THE HAGUE 5023).  
BROWN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** VISITS, TRAVEL CONTROLS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 AUG 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976THEHA04252  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760303-0735  
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**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ShawDG  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 27 APR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <27 APR 2004 by buchant0>; APPROVED <23 AUG 2004 by ShawDG>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DUTCH OFFICIAL FACES TRAVEL DIFFICULTIES IN SOVIET UNION  
**TAGS:** PFOR, OTRA, UR, NL, (VONDELING, ANNE)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006